PRIVATE SCREENINGS

VOL 2 NO 2 JUNE 1976

THE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE FOR FILM COLLECTORS

THE COLLECTABLE FILMS OF LAUREL & HARDY

. PAGE 22

EXCLUSIVE

SPECIAL PREVIEW
OF THE THREE
STOOGES' LAST
FILM AVAILABLE
TO COLLECTORS
ONLY

. PAGE 24

THE RETURN OF THE FILM PIRATES

. PAGE 12 .



NEW FROM HOLLYWOOD FILM EXCHANGE



HORROR EXPRESS (1973)

95 minutes
In 1905, in the Chinese province of Hangchow, an
English anthropoligist, Alexander Saxton, discovers
a fossil of very special characteristics: a strange
humanoid being which he believes to be the missing
link with humanity. He installs his carefully
crated discovery in the baggage car aboard the
Trans-Siberian Express, where he meets an old rival,
Dr. Wells, who is determined to find out what
mystery the large crate contains. Shortly after
the train has left, the baggage man is discovered
dead, his eyes completely drained of any colour,
left as two white blanks in his head. His body is
found in the crate which contained the fossil, the
fossil now missing. An autopsy reveals that the
brain of the corpse is like that of a man who had
never lived, all marks left by learning and memory

have been wiped clean. When Wells goes in search of
a missing passenger, he is attacked by a hairy beau
that is eventually killed. After examining the eye
of the dead beast, Saxton discovers that these eyes
have retained impressions of everything the creature
is one of a race from another galaxy, and
that he has cleaned the brains of his victims of
all their knowledge, adding it to his own. As the
journey progresses, other passengers are mysterious
killed: the unknown force is still at large. This
exciting horror film comes to a terrifying conclusi
and we are pleased to release it to collectors in
color and sound, complete and uncut, just as it
was released to theaters around the world.

Super 8mm color sound

have been wiped clean. When Wells goes in search of a missing passenger, he is attacked by a hairy beast that is eventually killed. After examining the eyes of the dead beast, Saxton discovers that these eyes have retained impressions of everything the creature saw during its life, including an image of the Earth that he has cleaned the brains of his victims of all their knowledge, adding it to his own. As the journey progresses, other passengers are mysteriously killed: the unknown force is still at large. This exciting horror film comes to a terrifying conclusion and we are pleased to release it to collectors in color and sound, complete and uncut, just as it was released to theaters around the world.

Super 8mm color sound 249.98







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KEATON



BEDROOM PARLOR, BATH

1932

73 minutes

That's right! Our man in Europe recently uncovered this rare treasure. Buster Keaton's only great sound film co-starring Reginald Denny, Cliff Edwards, Charlotte Greenwood, and Dorothy Christie. This broad farce was directed by Ed Sedgwick and features many reworkings of Buster's classic routines.

SUPER 8 B&W SOUND\$159.98

BENNY & LOMBARD

TO BE OR NOT TO BE

1942

sly

.98

One of the funniest American comedies. TO BE OR NOT TO BE, directed by Ernst Lubitsch, tells of a Polish theatrical troupe outwitting Nazis during the German invasion. Carole Lombard, in her last screen appearance, gives a captivating performance as a ham-actor's footsy-playing wife; Jack Benny's unique rendition of Hamlet's soliloquy is worth the price of admission alone; and lines such as "So they call me 'Concentration Camp' Ehrhardt" have already become classics.

Super 8, b&w Sound - SPECIAL PRICE (until June 1, 1976) \$139.98 ORDER NOW! After June 1st, the price will be \$174.98. An early order now will save you 20%





1534 N. Highland Ave., Hollywood, CA 90028 (213)466-2431 Allan Scott Bruce Venezia
Eastern Rep. — Paul Dorsen (201) 487-3626

HITCHCOCK

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

120 minutes

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT, one of Alfred Hitchcock's most dazzling collections of tour-deforce scenes, is also, with TOPAZ, TORN CURTAIN, and NOTORIOUS, one of his few films to deal directly with current events; the screenplay of FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT went through at least 14 drafts in order to keep abreast of the latest developments in Europe. The story deals with an American reporter's involvement in finding the whereabouts of a Dutch diplomat, who has been kidnapped by a Nazi spy-ring masquerading as a pacifist organization. Designed partly to confront American apathy on the war in Europe, the film ends with a dramatic plea from a falling continent.

Super 8, b&w Sound - SPECIAL PRICE (until June ORDER NOW! After June first, the price will be \$199.98. An early order will save you 20%

"No one is interested in hearing you talk about your hobby," is an oft quoted saying that no doubt has an air of truth. After all, such hobbies as collecting coins, stamps, leaves, barbed wire, or bottles hold little interest with most people (unless the bottles are full). However movie collecting is the happy exception to the rule, for where as many are not interested in stamp history, or the life of the great oak, everyone loves movies.

Thus movie collecting is one hobby that can be shared and enjoyed by anyone. Interestingly enough, though, there are some hobbyists who are less open with their films than others (especially with recent FBI problems). Even before the situation arose, you found two types of collectors: the free loaners, and the not-so-free loaners.

The free loaner is just that. He is always willing to loan any of his films to friends, and usually is just as free in asking to borrow movies from his friends (since few collectors have the funds to buy everything they want). The not-so-free loaners come in two styles, the restrictive and the very restrictive.

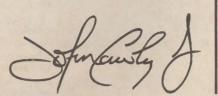
The restrictive loaner will allow you to show the movie anyplace, providing he shows it on his projector. This makes you arrange your plans to fit his schedule. The very restrictive will inform you that you may come to his place and watch the film on his projector run by him. Now these two forms of collectors have good arguments for their case, for anything can feasibly happen.

I know of a case where a friend had borrowed a print, and enroute to his home was in an automobile accident. Luckily he was not hurt, but the car burst into flames, and so did the print. The most common excuse is that of damage by other collectors. One friend claims, "The only time I ever borrowed a print, I chewed up several feet of it." Because of this he has never borrowed nor loaned another print.

My guess is that he would rather chew up his own films. As far as I can see, this argument is extremely weak. If the print is to be damaged, I would rather hear about it than be there. I feel that most collectors are fairly competent, and will know what to do if an emergency happens.

What it boils down to, is that if you want to buy a film and keep it in perfect condition forever, wrap it up as soon as you receive it and store it away. This may tend to lower film collecting to the level of stamps and barbed wire, but you may find some who enjoy hearing about the films you own... though never show.

You may well ask, What type of collecter am I? I must admit that I am two-faced in this area. If my friend is a free loaner (and there are many), he has unlimited use of my collection. If he is restrictive, I will match his restrictiveness. The reason being, that I have had only a few times in my life, ruined a portion of a film, so I feel very relaxed when running one. If someone has had many bad experiences, they tend to get restrictive... I wouldn't want my print to be their next bad experience.





JOHN CAWLEY, JR. **FDITOR** STEVEN KELEZ ART DIRECTOR & LAYOUT RANDY SKRETVEDT ASSISTANT EDITOR

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NOTHING SACRED NEW

WITH

LOMBARD MARCH

CHARLES WINNINGER
WALTER CONNOLLY



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1976.

Lane, irr: Steven



NOTHING SACRED (Color)

Sarole Lombard, Frederic March, Charles Winninger, Walter Connolly, Sig Ruman, Frank Fay, Maxie Rosenbloom. Directed by William Wellman. An hilarious comedy of errors with Ben Hecht's satiric screenplay taking aim at everything from the public's morbid interest in potential disaster to the newspaper business. Carole Lombard is Hazel Flagg, who, through a blundered diagnosis by a small town doctor, is given two weeks to live—all due to 'radium poisoning.' Her "plight' is discovered by a New York newspaper whose city editor (described by one reporter as 'a cross between a Ferris Wheel and werewolf') decides that Hazel will make a great human interest story—as well as boost circulation. She is given an all-expenses-paid 'last fling' in the big town, with cynical newshawk Frederic March showing her the bright lights. Then the bubble seems about to burst—the doctor tells her he goofed and the fun really begins. Adding to the hilarity is the reaction of people to Hazel's impending 'demise' ("For good clean fun, remarks March, at one point, there's nothing like a wake.") plus an excellent cast of players. A comedy classic!

75 minutes

NOTHING SACRED WAS MADE FROM AN ORIGINAL 35mm. TECH IB PRINT. DUE TO THE SLOW FILM SPEED DURING THE ERA THAT PRODUCED NOTHING SACRED, THE COLOR SATURATION WAS SOFT AND WARM IN COLOR. WHILE THE COLOR IS DEFINITELY PLEASING ON OUR PRINTS, PLEASE DON'T EXPECT THE EQUIVALENT OF LATER TECHNICOLOR. THUNDERBIRD'S PRINTS OF NOTHING SACRED ARE SUPERTOR TO THOSE BEING OFFERED ELSEWHERE

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Josef von Sternberg's THE BLUE ANCEL fuses the charming naturalism of Marlene Dietrich and the gutty expressionism of Emil Jannings into a harsh slice of realism. Professor Rath, a dignified university professor, falls in love with Lola Lola, a vulgar nightclub singer. His glum descent from pride and importance to humiliation and insignificance is brutally charted in disconsolate visuals and piercing sound effects.

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#69 COLOR: MEN AGAINST, THE ARTIC, LAST REBEL, THE BRAVADOS, DEEP THRUST,

#70 COLOR: LADY LIBERTY, TWO WEEKS IN SEPTEMBER, JOHN AND MARY, CANDY,

 $\frac{\#71\ \text{COLOR:}}{\text{A LONELY HUNTER, MAURIE}}$ RUN OF THE ARROW, LITTLE SHEPHERD OF KINGDOM COME, THE HEART IS

#73 COLOR: CONQUEROR WORM, NIGHTMARE, EVIL OF FRANKENSTEIN, BEYOND ATLANTIS, BENEATH THE PLANET OF THE APES, THE ANDROMEDA STRAIN

#74 COLOR: CLAY PIDGEON, WILLARD, MARNIE (lengthy Hitchcock promo trailer)

#75 COLOR: LE MANS, WHERE EAGLES DARE, A GUNFIGHTER, ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE WEST

#76 COLOR: GULLIVERS TRAVELS, DUMBO, SWISS FAMILY ROBINSON, DOCTOR DOOLITTLE

#77 COLOR: THE VANISHING POINT, THE COMEDIANS, SUMMER OF '42, AMERICAN FILM THEATRE (with scenes from several all-star films)

#78 COLOR: TOBY TYLER, FLIPPER, SONG OF THE SOUTH, A DOG OF FLANDERS

#79 COLOR: DEEP THRUST, SUPER CHICK, BLACK GUNN, SEVEN-UPS, WOMEN IN CAGES

#80 COLOR: BUTCH CASSIDY AND THE SUNDANCE KID, WESTWORLD, MCCLINTOCK, YELLOWSTONE KELLY

#81 COLOR: TOWERING INFERNO, THE BIG CIRCUS, THE LAST SUNSET, KWAHERI, THE MEPHISTO WALTZ

#82 B&W: NIGHT MUST FALL (re-make), OUR MAN IN HAVANA, GREAT IMPOSTER, PSYCHO (teaser), BRINGING UP BABY

#83 COLOR: SWORD AND THE STONE, FANTASIA, LADY & THE TRAMP, PINNOCHIO

 $\frac{\#84~\text{B6W:}}{}$ FATE IS THE HUNTER, HOUSE OF THE SEVEN HAWKS, THE BEST MAN, PATCH OF BLUE, DESIRE IN THE DUST

#85 B&W: STOWAWAY (Faye/Temple), YOUR NOT SO TOUGH, SABRINA, BLUEBEARD'S TEN HONEYMOONS, DIRIGBLE ('30, with Jack Holt)

THUNDERBIRD FILMS

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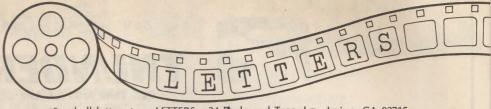
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So, before you thread your projector back up, take a minute to fill out the coupon below (or a facsimile thereof) and drop it in the nearest mail box today.

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6 PRIVATE SCREENINGS



Send all letters to: LETTERS 34 Redwood Tree Ln Irvine, CA 92715

FRANKENSTEIN'S CAT

I sure wish you'd put out more issues, it's obvious your publication is going to lead for a long time as the source for film up-dated information.

After reading over the last issue of Private Screenings, I have some comments to make. I read your review on FRANKENSTEIN'S CAT and this is one film that I was highly delighted with. There is nothing dull to me in this film and it would be a top choice to show to anyone when I invite them over to the house. I found it impressive in print quality, color, contrast, and sharpness in sound. However, if I would have read your review about this film before I bought it, I would have stayed away from it after what you wrote because I don't want a dull film in my collection.

When you go to these BIG Cinecon Film Conventions, do write more about it; do print up many dealer tables in snap shot format; and do encourage us to go off to the next one. (Reading that only 300 people showed up seem's a dissapointment?) I like reading about these conventions if it gives me the feeling that it's like looking through your attic and finding an old projector your grandfather left behind. One can find some great treasures in films and equipment at these conventions. I went to the one in Connecticut back in '74 and must say I talked about it for day's after it was over at all the things I saw, and the information I learned. I couldn't make it all the way out to the one in California, but you can bet that I will be at this next one that's coming to New York!

Hoping these comments help you with your wonderful publication.

-Bob Franzenburg, Bayside, New York

(Thanks for the encouragement and comments, Bob. I'm sorry we don't agree on the cartoon, but I've yet to find any critic that I will follow without question. As to our comment on the attendance of Cinecon 11, perhaps we are a bit prejudiced. I personally have never been to a "major" convention with an attendance of less than 1,000. Add to this the fact that our small one day conventions we hold each draw over 300... I would expect a national convention to draw at

least double. Hopefully the upcoming Bijou convention, MOVIEEXPO '76 will be a big draw... it should be!) fo

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PS #1



WORTH \$10.00 ??!!

Enclosed is my subscription for your publication. I sent in money for a copy of number 1, and you sent back my money saying that the price had gone up to \$10 but issues remained.

This I find quite unethical. I ordered from an ad in the Buyers Guide. I gave your publication sufficient interest to be one of the first 1200 people in the world to order your first issue. Yet this enthusiasm was met with crass commercialism. I send in my subscription, but also think you did an unethical thing. You should sell your first issues as long as you get orders. It is up to dealers to raise and set a collector's price, not you.

-Alan Adler, Charlotte, N.C.

(Sorry you didn't get an order in in time, Alan. We realize that \$10 is a lot to ask ((of course we think the issue has a lot)) but at the moment only around a dozen are left. Also, our back issues are one of the few ways we are able to keep some funds coming in. Speaking of dealers raising prices, we have turned down several offers to buy out our stock of first issues... in fact this is one of the reasons for the price increase.)

STILL PUBLISHING

A few months ago, you sent me a com-

plimentary copy of Private Screenings. I found the magazine to be quite similar to Ozark Cinema Review and therefore decided not to subscribe. Now, OCR has turned into a piece of junk, so I am interested in PS. I am enclosing a check for a subscription, in the hope that you still are publishing. If you are no longer publishing, I would still be interested in any of your back issues (except volume one, number two), and you can apply the funds to that.

-William Wind, Denver, Colorado

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(As you can see, we are still publishing, William. Hopefully we will continue to publish for many more years to come, so spread the word!)

THUNDERBIRD FILMS

After reading Andrew Bendel's letter in PS #4, I have to come to the defense of Tom Dunnahoo. I have never seen a Thunderbird print in either regular 8mm or 16mm that was below average. In fact, most have been excellent. Just to name a few, ZORRO'S FIGHTING LEGION, THE MANIAC, THE GREAT GABBO, and the Flash Gordon condensations are good to excellent in 16mm. NOSFERATU in 16mm and R8mm is the best version I've seen. THE SHOCK in R8mm is far better than Blackhawk's print. Of the several dozen collectors I know, I've never heard a bad word spoken about Thunderbird's print quality.

Since I consider super-8 to be a "garbage gauge," I have never bought or seen a Thunderbird print in super-8, therefore, I am not at liberty to comment on T-Bird's super-8 quality. If Mr. Bendel is disappointed with the quality of the super-8 prints he has been getting, I suggest he consider collecting in a more

reliable gauge.

-Jon Mirsalis, Raleigh, North Carolina

(I will admit, Jon, that the quality control on Super 8 is a bit variable, but it has come to far to be considered a "garbage gauge." Also, I'm quite sure every collector wishes he had the funds to be able to have everything in his collection in 16mm, the expenses currently are far to prohibitive. All we can do is keep hoping for better Super 8.)

REVIEWS

Received the January edition of Private Screenings. It really looks good—- seems to improve with each issue. Keep up the good work.

I have put together a few film reviews

of recent titles I have had the opportunity to screen. Thought you might be interested in using some of them for a future issue of PS. If you like these, I might be able to send others later for a library in my area has just purchased a huge number of sound 1-2 reelers and features, so I'm having a grand time viewing them.

-James Ennis, Sidney, Illinois

(Looks like you've run into a bit of good luck, Jim. Many collectors would do well to check local libraries, as they are getting more and more into audiovisuals and films. As for the reviews, we should have one or two in this issue. If there's one thing we look for, it's reviews, for several reasons. The obvious is that we cannot physically see all films, one not so obvious is that all of us have our own preferences on topic matter so that the unpopular ones seldom get viewed. If any readers would like to try their hand at sending in a few reviews, we will be glad to look at them. If printed, we can give you credit ((unfortunately nothing else)).

CINECON 12



In your January, 1976 issue, you had an article about Cinecon 11 in Hollywood. Next year, or rather this year, the convention will be held in New York. I would very much like to attend this coming convention because its just right around the corner.

Would you please have Cinecon send me all the information they have on this year's convention.

-Jack Hawkins, Williamsport, Pennsylvania

(Would like to help you, Jack, but we have trouble getting them to send US any information! You might write to continued on page 10

(Formerly Hollywood Hall Of Fame) DEDICATED TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO MADE MOTION PICTURES A TRUE ART FORM

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FEATURES

by Michael Curtiz, music by Max Steiner. Running time 110 minutes. THE STRANGER — Orson Welles' third film is often neglected, kept in the shadow of his first two, but THE STRANGER is also a THE STRANGER — Orson Welles starred in and directed this classic film, which also features Loretta Young and Edward G. Robinson. This, Welles' third film, is often neglected, kept in the shadow of his first two, but THE STRANGER is also a highly personal and valuable work. It is the story of an escaped Nazi official who manages to take refuge in Connecticut and establish himself as a respected citizen. This is another Wellesian essay on evil. 95 minutes .. LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS — Jonathan Haze, Jackie Joseph, and Mei Welles star in this very funny Roger Corman horror film from 1960. It seems that Haze has a flower shop, and one day one of his plants starts talking to him, demanding human blood... Jack Nicholson is featured as a masochistic dental patient. Running time 65 minutes YELLOW ROSE OF TEXAS - Roy Rogers, as an incognito insurance agent working from a riverboat, clears the name of an old man falsely accused of a stagecoach robbery. Dale Evans and the Sons of the Pioneers are featured. 54 minutes.....

JESSE JAMES AT BAY — Roy Rogers and Gabby Hayes star in this 1941 outdoor saga from Republic. 54 minutes\$69 FALSE COLORS — Starring William Boyd. Hopalong Cassidy fights outlaws who are trying to take over a neighboring ranch. Robert Mitchum is seen, at the beginning of his career, in a bad guy role. 65 minutes SUNDOWN FURY — Don 'Red' Barry cleans up the corrupt city of Sundown in this 1946 Republic western. 54 minutes \$69
EL PASO STAMPEDE — Allan 'Rocky' Lane and Phyllis Coates star, with Rocky featured as a government agent. 54 minutes \$69 CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH — Red Ryder (Wild Bill Elliott) and Little Beaver (Bobby Blake) ride into action. 54 minutes

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'Wonder Man', 'Queen High' -each\$70
BAREFOOT IN THE PARK Award-winning color feature, 100
minutes\$175

BOOKS

The newly revised edition of PUBLIC DOMAIN FILMS: 1940 to 1947 ½ will be out soon, in hardback, at a cost of \$75

I also have a few comic books for sale at the following prices: FRONTUNE COMBAT 4 (V.Fine-Fine) \$15.00, SHOCK SUSPENSTORIES 17 (VF-F) \$11.25, CRIME SUSPENSTORIES 17 (F) \$14.50 (autographed by Williamsen), VALOR 3 (VG) \$7.50, WAR AGAINST CRIME 5 (VG-G) \$8.00, and ADULT TALES OF TERROR 1 (F) \$11.00

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Entrys must be postmarked no later than May 31, 1976 and received no later than June 10, 1976. Anyone can enter (excepting employees of L/C Films). The Big Winner will be listed in the next issue of publication, in which this notice appears.



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continued from page 7

Herb Graff, 824 East 21st Street, Brooklyn, New York, 11210. He is in charge of Cinecon 12, so should have most of the information you need.)

VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA

I received issue #4 of your publication (my first) and I just want to tell you how pleased and excited I am about it. It's a very readable, informative magazine, and as far as I'm concerned - the best in the field.

I notice that in a future issue you plan an article on the Irwin Allen TV series LOST IN SPACE. Could I perhaps persuade you to give equal space to my particular favorite Allen series, VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA? I can assure you at least 100 interested readers, from the David Hedison Fan Club.

Actually, most of the background material is readily available to me from previous club publications, which usually carry an article or two on the series, due to a very stubborn interest among the membership which refuses to give up.

Number me among them.

-Vieve Yarbrough, Miami, Florida



(Not a bad idea, Vieve. At the moment, we are trying to put the LIS article in as soon as possible since it has drawn the most interest of all our announced features. Speaking of David Hedison, here is a shot from his pre-David days when he was known as Al Hedison. The film is SON OF ROBIN HOOD, only the son is actually a daughter. By the end of the film, though, David does become the son-in-law. If any of our readers are interested in Mr. Hedison and his varied career, they would do well to contact the fan club at PO Box 560330, Kendall, Miami, Florida, 33156. They have an excellent publication, and an extremely enthusiastic membership.)

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First, allow me to congratulate you on the contents of your publication. You are really doing the collector a service. Your articles are always the tops. I can hardly wait for the upcoming Ray Harryhausen article.

At this time, I'd like to say something in defense of Tom Dunnahoo and Thunderbird films. Personally, I have never received a bad print from Tom, and my purchases have amounted to a great deal. Even a big organization such as Columbia Pictures is not without its problems. Take the 8mm division, presided over. by Mr. Edward Justin, it had plenty of headaches at first. I was a complainer, for one, about the lack of continuity in some of their releases, especially THE GOLDEN VOYAGE OF SINBAD.

Mr. Justin admitted he wasn't satisfied with the editing, and did something about it. He likes to refer to himself as "Honest Ed," because he is honest and wants to please. He'll bend over backwards to right a wrong and will most certainly track down a source. He's one swell guy.

Another wonderful fellow to deal with, and I have never heard any complaints against his service or films, is Mr. Mike Lefebvre of L/C Films. Heck, if there are any flaws, such as poor sound, printed in rain marks, poor color, or fuzziness, he'll see that a good print is obtained or "no sale." Now if that isn't honesty, I don't know what is. Mike certainly has my respect.

So, in conclusion, let's throw a few bouquets, instead of brickbats. You'll feel better for it, and they will too. They are all out to please you, for they realize if they don't they are out of business.

-Eugene Heflin, Florence, Oregon

(I must agree with you, Eugene. I'm sure most readers have heard enough

about the problems in collecting, and what they want are some of the solutions. I am still not pleased by the quality control on prints, but as you say they are trying which is more than some are doing.)

DISNEY SOUND

I've enjoyed every issue of Private Screenings, and wish you the best for the future. The more reviews of films the better. After paying \$10 for my copy of issue #1, I was not disappointed... maybe a bit jealous that I didn't get in on the \$1 price... but not at all disappointed. The

Disney section was superb.

I have discovered that watching TV Guide for listings of the cartoon scheduled for the MICKEY MOUSE CLUB is helping me obtain soudtracks to cartoons that are not available in sound editions from Disney. For example, just today I picked up the sound to MICKEY DOWN UNDER, a rather enjoyable mouse cartoon with Mickey and Pluto in Australia. It has long been available in silent color or b/w but never in sound. It adds immeasurably to the enjoyment of the cartoon with the soundtrack.

In the future I hope PS will feature articles on some of the great radio stars who made movies, such as Fibber

continued on page 17

The Film Hobbyist's **Greatest Helpmate**

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CAPTAIN

VS. THE

ith all of the publicity and notoriety directed at film piracy today, it's a wonder that Hollywood hasn't made their own film on the subject. Even if they did, it probably would not be as appealing and "inside," as a film already in circulation and available to the home market.

Started over 10 years ago and finally completed and released in 1968, Captain Celluloid and the Film Piratescan easily be said to have been ahead of its time. Originally a parody and a tribute to the now defunct serials of the Saturday matinee, the theme of Captain Celluloid probably has more appeal and is more topical in this age of real international film pirates. The film consists of four tightly executed chapters which together last one hour. As in the original cliffhangers, the first chapter is the longest, with the remaining three appropriately shorter. The film was originally shot in 16mm silent but is also available in an 8mm format. Rounding out the serial, is an exciting musical sound track containing the scores from many well known chapterplays.

Though Captain Celluloid is a handsomely done and polished piece of film, it is not the work of a major or even minor studio. The creative force behind this film consists mainly of one very talented and clever individual, Louis Mc-Mahon, Mr. McMahon has been a serial devotee, since he spent his first Saturday afternoon some 30 years or more ago, in a darkened theater watching the likes of Captain Marvel, Batman, and Don Winslow. He was so taken with these films, that he soon started to turn out his own amateur versions with titles such as "Perils of Elaine," "Black Rider," and "-Jungle Jim." Needless to say, Lou went on to become an assistant cameraman for advertising and industrial films.

Captain Celluloid was originally conceived during a get-together with fellow serial fans, one of whom was noted film historian, William K. Everson. Everson originated the film's villian, the "Master

The Film Pirates Are Back. **But Like** None You've Ever Seen Before Cornered at last. Captain Celluloid gets the drop on the Master Duper and Vance in their underground hideout. But the hooded villian always has some trick up those large sleeves.

Duper," while Lou and Bob Miller (who portrays the crusading Captain) conceived the idea of Captain Celluloid and worked on the script. At first, the filming was done in fun, but much of the footage looked so good, that Lou decided to go all out. It took five years to complete, and for a hobby production, it is professional all the way.

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Writing in the May, 1972 issue of Movie Maker Magazine (published in England), Denis Gifford had this to say

by Steven Kelez

12 PRIVATE SCREENINGS

CELLULOID FILM PIRATES

Four Smashing WHIRLWIND FIST FIGHTS --Episodes EXPLOSIONS -Adventure Pictures

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Like one

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er (who onceivid and filming ootage d to go mplete, , it is

sue of hed in to say about Captain Celluloid. "It is not so much a parody of Republic serials as a homage... a tribute that actually succeeds in exceeding the original." Influenced by the serials of Republic studios, and their chief directors William Witney, John English, and Spencer Gordon Bennett, McMahon has indeed emulated their exciting styles within the framework of the four chapters of his serial. It is quite evident that McMahon has done his homework, for all of the fight sequences

ABOVE- Complimenting the cinematic quality of Capt. Celluloid, Bob commissioned popular illustrator Gray Morrow to design the box covers.

These men are your suspects. In the tradition of chapterplays, one of these shifty eyed characters is the Master Duper. All three are on the board of directors of the Association of Film Distributors. From L to R: Duncan Gregory (Alan Barbour), Paul Michael (Barney Noto), and Martin Brand (John Cullen).



From his secret hideout in Scorpian Cove, the Master Duper broadcasts his latest scheme to his band of 'film pirates.'

are choreographed and executed in the best tradition of Republic studios. One stunt sequence in particular is so well done, that you really think you are watching a Republic serial. The scene in question occurs in chapter four. The Master Duper's chief henchman, Vance, has just tried to kill an important witness in an old abandoned barn, when suddenly flying out of the hayloft comes Captain Celluloid, who bowls over Vance, does a forward roll and flips back on his feet, gun in hand to corner the criminal. So well planned is this scene, that the component camera angles flow together in such a fluid movement that the impression is given that only one set up was used. Add to this the rest of the ingredients found in a typical serial - a mystery villian, car chases, explosions, hypnotic ray pistols, an invisibility screen, a disintegrating ray, and an Instant Transmission Printer (electronic film dupping machine), all which adds up to make Captain Celluloid and the Film Pirates one exciting and fun film.

Chapter one, "The Master Duper Strikes," opens up with an intriguing situation, the discovery of the original uncut-complete negatives to Eric Von Stroheims' classic, GREED. The Association of Film Distributors are commissioned to transport the film to the Rochester Museum, but enroute, the driver is hypnotized and the film secretly dupped by a band of hooded figures whose leader wears a black robe emblazed with a reel of film. Thus begins the Master Duper's plan to flood the world with classic film dupes. Of course the only one who stands a chance of thwarting this criminal mastermind is



Trapped on a barge which serves as a pick-up point for priceless nitrate prints, Captain Celluloid's only chance of escape is to blast his way out. But gun powder and nitrate don't mix which will bring Chapter 3 ("Nitrate Fury") to an explosive finish.

Captain Celluloid, who is actually square jawed Larry Steele, member of the Association of Film Distributors. But, aha, so is the Master Duper a member of this cinematic organization. Only after Captain Celluloid is electrocuted (chapter one), blown to bits (chapter two, "Nitrate Fury"), plunged over a cliff in a car (chapter three, "Satan's Coffin"), is the Master Duper finally "Unmasked" (chapter four's title, of course) in a



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CAPTAIN CELLULOID



LARRY STEELE - BOB MILLER



MASTER DUPER - ???:







In their final meeting Captain Celluloid and the Master Duper slug it out, literally destroying the Duper's hideout in the tradition of every Republic Serial.

shower of 15,000 volts.

One other interesting facet of Captain Celluloid, is the chance to view three prominent film related personalities. Among the cast are author and publisher Alan G. Barbour, film historian William K. Everson, and movie caricaturist Al Kilgore.

If you like the old serials, then you'll get a kick out of Captain Celluloid and the Film Pirates. Or if you would like to see a film made by movie buffs for movie buffs, it is as professional a film as was made by the studio from which it takes its inspiration. Captain Celluloid and the Film Pirates may be parody, but it is applied with loving care and makes for a delightful hour of entertainment.

Prints of Captain Celluloid and the Film Pirates may be ordered by writing to Adventure Pictures, Louis McMahon, 272 Highland Street, Cresskill, New Jersey 07626.





Surprising the Duper's hooded pirates at one of their film pick-ups...



...Captain Celluloid meets with a bit more resistance than he expected...



...will Captain Celluloid survive???



DALE STIRLING — DORIS BURNELL

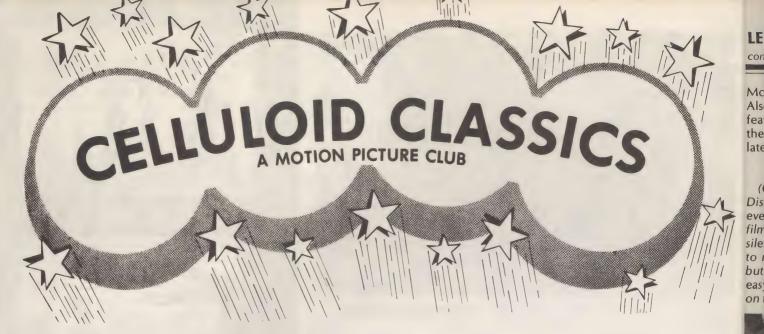


VANCE - AL KILGORE



SATANYA — JEAN BARBOUR

JUNE 1976 15



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LETTERS

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continued from page 10

McGee & Molly, Great Gildersleeve, etc. Also interested in dancebands who made features such as Kay Kyser's series, and the flick made by Woody Herman in the late '40s. Not shorts... but features!

-Paul Hemmer, Dubuque, Iowa

(Glad you liked #1, Paul. As for the Disney soundtracks, some collectors even record the entire soundtrack of films off the air and edit them to fit the silent clips from companies such as Ken to make sound versions. A lot of work, but no one ever said collecting should be easy! Perhaps something can be dug up on the radio and band stars from the '40s.



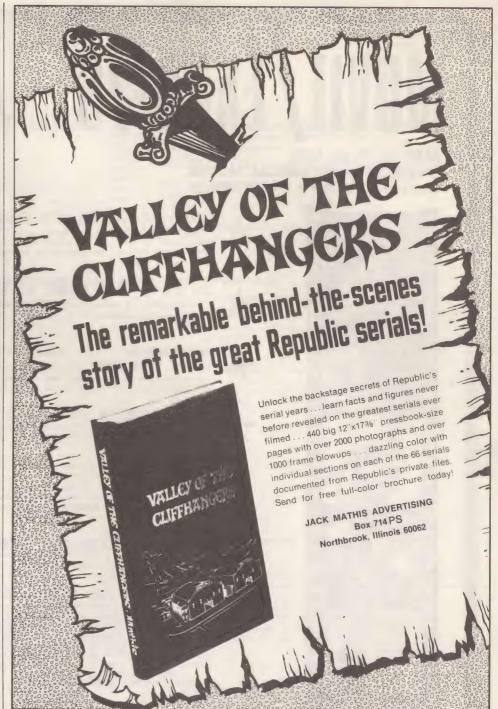
If you get a chance, I would recommend catching YOU'LL FIND OUT when repeated on a local channel. It stars not only Karloff and Lugosi, but Kay Kyser and his orchestra are also in this enjoyable comedy/musical/horror film.)

BEDROOM DEALERS

I am a mail-order dealer in Super 8 and 16mm films. I started about four months ago, and have been quite successful at it, so far. When I began, I put out a catalog listing all the films I have to offer from Columbia, Thunderbird, Niles, Ken, Viacom, Disney and Castle. I noticed I wasn't getting enough response and wondering what was the matter, I decided to send away for catalogs of other dealers. I found a few that, to my amazement, were discounting the films at such a low price, and were working at such a low margin of profit, that it occured to me what I was doing wrong.

So, it was a case of "if you can't beat 'em, join 'em." My sales skyrocketed, and needless to say, my net profits are "zilch."

Isn't there something that can be done about these "bedroom" artists? The super 8 sound business has erupted like a volcano and it hasn't even gotten off the ground yet. Why can't these people sell



their films at a reasonable 'list' price? I am surprised at a company as Niles, one of the best suppliers in the field, who also sell on a retail basis, don't clamp down on this discount selling, so that we all can make a living. These dealers are in direct competition to the suppliers themselves. It's a case of 'biting the hand that feeds them.'

-Art Edelstein, Famous Films, Miami, Florida

(Sorry you don't like the current situation in film sales, Art. However, you have forgotten one part of the business

cycle: the consumer. What with prices soaring higher and higher each day, the buyer needs every break possible. Obviously this point got across enough for the 'fair trade' laws to be stopped. One note of good news for your side, many film companies are now raising the number of films needed to be purchased for discount, hence many of the smaller dealers will have to raise prices. Other firms, however, are dropping list prices altogether, letting each dealer sell at what he wants. Either way, it just increases the bite on the collector's limited budget.)

JUNE 1976 17

MOVIE/EXPO'76

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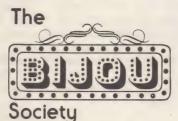


in The Society..., if you attend for all 3 days!

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FEATURETTES- These are short films which show how various features were made. Go behind the scenes with the stars.

ENTER THE DRAGON -Behind the scenes with Bruce Lee (400' - Color)
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FILM REVIEWERS:

John Cawley, Jr.

Steven Kelez

Jeff Warren

Randy Skretvedt

STAGECOACH (Hollywood Film Exchange/Super 8 sound/feature) Definately a classic film. The story is about a group of travelers (consisting of a driver, an outlaw, a pregnant woman, a drunken doctor, a gambler, a "loose" woman, a whiskey salesman, an embezzling banker, and a sherrif) fighting off each other and Indians. It contains everything for an entertaining evening: action, suspense, comedy, romance, and cliches. Print quality is generally very good, though occasionally the picture appears slightly grainy or over contrasty. There is also a slight loss of grey tones at times, but sound is fine along with focus. Directed by John Ford, the cast includes John Wayne, Andy Devine, John Carradine, George Bancroft, Claire, Trevor, and Louise Platt. Whether or not you like westerns (and I don't), or John Wayne, this is a film that should be in every collection. -JC

BEANSTALK JACK (Viacom/Super 8 sound/200' -color) This Terrytoon film has everything going for it. Good quality, excellent color and sound, and a funny story. In this version of Jack and the Beanstalk, Jack's mother is the old lady in the shoe. All that's left in her cupboard is one tiny bean. Jack is given the bean to plant, and after the usual time it takes in cartoons to grow a stalk (3 seconds), Jack is soon on his way to do battle with the miserly giant for the goose that lays the golden eggs. The many variation of gags makes this film a cut above others. -JW

THE BIG MOUTH (Columbia/Super 8 sound/400' -color) A Columbia indigestion print. Color may be the best so far, but the story is still ruined. If you want a souvenir of Sea World, better buy the ones they sell there. At least they don't have Jerry Lewis popping into every scene with a gag that doesn't come across. While at San Diego, Jerry encounters more murders than the St. Valentine's Day massacre. Don't be the next victim, choose a different Lewis film for your collection. -JW



20 PRIVATE SCREENING

IT CAME FROM OUTER SPACE (Castle/Super 8 sound/200') This is a very nicely fast paced clip containing lots of action and special effects from the feature of the same name. By picking key scenes the entire plot is made clear without any need for narration, and only in 200'. The special effects are excellent and sure to please any audience. Print quality was sharp and clean. -SK

TRAILER HORN (L/C Distributors/Super 8 OPTICAL Sound/200' -color) This is a totally complete (credits and all) Donald Duck cartoon from 1950 co-starring his two best supporting characters, Chip 'n Dale. The story has Chip and Dale discovdiscovering a large set of footprints which lead up to a trailer and its occupant, Donald. After having some innocent fun with their new discovery, Donald shows he is less than pleased with his new neighbors, and the battle is on. Not as funny as the vintage Disney, but still amusing none the less. Anyone with optical sound on their projector is highly recommended to pick up this item. Print quality, along with sound are excellent. -JC

THE FACE ON THE BAR ROOM FLOOR (Atlas/Super 8 silent/200') Fair dupe of the old Official Films release (the titles still bear the Official Films trademark). Chaplin stars as an artist who is jilted by his wife. Early Keystone, not all that funny. -RS

all THIS AND RABBIT STEW (Niles/Super 8 sound/200' -color) Ghastly! This print is so washed out, grainy, contrasty, and fuzzy sounding, that no matter how good the cartoon might be, it won't make up for the print. The cartoon, itself, is a mildly amusing Bugs Bunny vehicle with a black stereotype out to get a rabbit. There are not too many top gags (surprising since it was done by Tex Avery), and those that are good, don't come off with all of their potential. Not recommended to anyone until a major improvement in print quality is performed. -JC



BANANA BINGE (Viacom/Super 8 sound/200'-color) A Silly Sidney cartoon, and a very funny Terrytoon! Although a bit recent (1961), this is one of the funniest Terrytoon's available. The action centers around Sidney, who is unable to resist bananas much to the irritation of the local plantation owner. Even though his friends try to help, it is only after he gets a "spiked" bunch of bananas that he is able to swear off. Print quality is very good on this one. -IC

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CHECK AND DOUBLE CHECK (Niles/Super 8 sound/feature) Good cast: Freeman F. Gosden/Charles V. Correll as Amos & Andy, Sue Carol (Mrs. Alan Ladd), Charles Morton, and Irene Rich. A top-grossing RKO film of 1930-31. Good mixture of melodrama and comedy, but Amos 'n Andy's situations are only occasionally funny today; some are even an insult to blacks today. Highlight is Bert Kalmar-Harry Ruby's song, "Three Little Words." Duke Ellington's band is also featured. Quality ranges from good to very good. Pre-print came from Movietime TV print. -JE

THE MICKEY MOUSE CLUB (Disney/Super 8 sound/200') Since Disney has given us the extra long opening to the TV series, it is a shame that we couldn't have been treated to color (as it was originally done) with the rest of the film in a color tint. What attempts to come across as the highlights of the TV series fails miserably. The introduction of the Mouseketeers and Annette reciting a poem of sorts would make any good Mouseketeers burn his "ears." Save your money, and watch the re-runs on TV. -JW

MABEL'S MARRIED LIFE (Blackhawk/16mm silent/400') This early Chaplin comedy is not very funny, and the print is not very good. The story has Charlie and his wife (Mabel Normand) battling with a masher and a dummy (literally). The print was very grainy without a sharp focus. -JC



REVIEWS

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THE GAMMA PEOPLE (Columbia/Super 8 sound/400') Who says an abridged film can't be bettee than the original? This Columbia minor thriller, made in England, moves along at a nice clip with all of the dead weight removed, and there was plenty of it in the original. Of course the story is nothing to rave about in either version, being that of a mad scientist in a mythical east European country who develops a gamma ray that can turn people into geniuses or mindless robots. You can guess the result the ray usually produces. As is the case with most Columbia Classics, the narration in this clip is not needed, and during one sequence when narration is needed to explain the motivation of one character there is none. The print was very dark and this film is not recommended to anyone but the staunchest horror movie buff. -SK

THE TALKING MAGPIES (Viacom/Super 8 sound/200' -color) This is the first Heckle and Jeckle cartoon, and curiously enough they appear as a husband and wife team (not the two British chaps we are used to). Don't let that scare you off. This film is perhaps one of the best Terrytoons I have seen, with actually clever gags involving sound effects and well known "stars" of the time (though none visually). Print quality was superb, but no end titles on this one. -JC

SHIVERING SHAKESPEARE

(Blackhawk/Super 8 sound/400') Awful. Much too drawn out with too much unfunny dialogue. In this Our Gang film, the gang puts on a play and no one remembers their lines. The film concludes with a pie fight which moves too slow to be funny. Still, audiences seem to find this film more funny than it really is. Print and sound quality were very good. The only thing that hampers this film is the space between lines, which is filled only with hissing and crackling. I wish the Roach Studio had used background music on these early talkies, for that would have given the films a decided and much needed boost. -JMC



TRAILER REEL #3 - BOGART (Thunderbird/Super 8 sound/200') This jam packed reel contains 6 theatrical trailers and is one of the best super 8 prints I have seen from Thunderbird. Besides being just films of Humphrey Bogart, the reel gives you a chance to view James Cagney (ROARING 20's) and Bette Davis (MARKED WOMAN) in co-starring roles. You get a glimpse at the magic of Bogart and Bacall in DARK PASSAGE, as well as coming attractions to the classic, TREASURE OF THE SIERRE MADRE. Rounding up the package is a minor vehicle, BLACK LEGION, and the only non-Warner Brothers film on the reel, TOKYO JOE, which was made by Columbia. Highly recommended to all film collec-

BLACK AND TAN (Blackhawk/Super 8 sound/400') This early sound short is noted as the first film with Duke Ellington. If you want it for that reason, fine. Otherwise stay away! This boring piece of cinema manages to insult not only blacks (with two extremely bad stereotypes in the beginning who are more interested in booze than business) but to the average persons' intelligence. Dance numbers are more like 'stepping in time to music,' in fact most of the music seems to take a back seat to the "plot." Print quality is very satisfactory (in fact quite good for such an early subject). Recommended only to hard core jazz fans. -JC

CUSTOMERS WANTED (Niles/Super 8 sound/200') A not too early Popeye cartoon, this one is still quite funny. Popeye and Bluto are carnival barkers, each promoting his own penny arcade. The only customer to show any interest is Wimpy, so both treat him to free shows to convince him which is best (the "shows" are clips from past cartoons), and abattle soon follows between the two. Print quality is not very good, with quite a bit of muddiness on the image, giving the picture a blotchy appearance. Sound, however, is quite satisfactory. -JC



HORROR EXPRESS (Hollywood Film Exchange/Super 8 sound/feature -color) Very good, a film for almost everyone. As fas as the print quality goes, it is truly beautiful in color and sound (this film was recently screened at Casual Con III, on a 80x80 screen from over 50 feet away in a 200 seat theatre and held up as good as 16mm!). As for the story, it is a fun piece of horror/science fiction. The plot concerns an ancient fossil of man discovered by scientist, Christopher Lee, and put on a train to be taken to England. Even before the train departs the station, one mysterious death occurs, and as the train progresses, it is obvious that something is not only murdering passengers, but also stealing all of their memory (leaving the victims' eyes totally white). A fellow scientist, Peter Cushing, lends a hand in the bizarre events that follow. Full of dry humor, mysterious twists in plot, and a frightening climax, this film will no doubt please almost any film buff. note: This film is rated 'R,' but I could not see any reason for such a harsh rating for such mild 'PG" material.

ANNIVERSARY TROUBLE

(Blackhawk/Super 8 sound/400') A 1935 Little Rascals' classic with many 'Gang' members (Spanky, Buckwheat, and Scotty). Spanky is trusted with the Gang's money, but it gets mixed up thanks to his absent-minded father (expertly played by Johnny Arthur). Lots of laughs and good quality. -JE

THE PLAYHOUSE (Niles/Super 8 silent/400') Very rare, this is a great Buster Keaton film. Buster works as a stagehand in a vaudeville house. The first half contains a dream sequence in which Buster (through multiple exposure photography) plays all nine minstrels, a pair of dancers, all of the orchestra members, and every member of the audience. The rest of the film has Buster interrupting the various acts. Print quality is only fair. There are several spotty sections, but focus is good. Even so, this film is more than worth the price. -RS





LAUREL & MARDY

PART 2

THE SILENT SHORTS

by Jeff M. Cohen

he year is 1927. Hal E. Roach Studios is making a two-reel comedy called SLIPPING WIVES. It stars Herbert Rawlinson, Priscilla Dean and two unpopular bit comedians, Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy. The plot has Priscilla feeling that her husband, Herbert, isn't giving her as much attention as he used to. She elects Laurel, a painter, to make him jealous by flirting with her. All works out well after a wild chase. Hardy has a good part as the dignified family butler, complete with slicked-down hair. He is clean shaven. The film is released and is a hit. It was the start. The start of Laurel and Hardy.

As with many silent films, SLIPPING WIVES is paced too fast, with too many gags at breakneck speed. It is currently unavailable to collectors. THE FIXER UPPERS, which was almost a total remake, is much better.

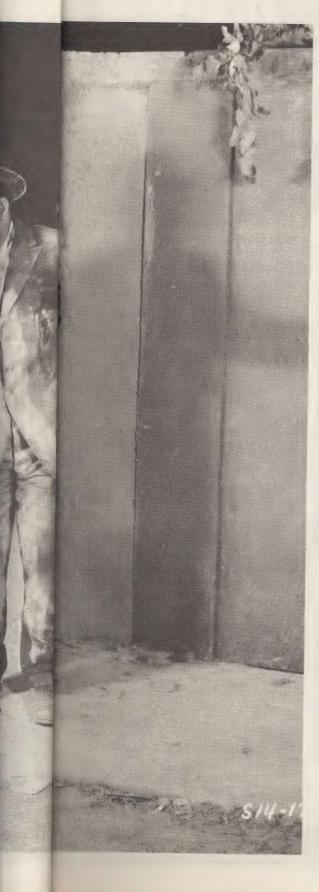
LOVE 'EM AND WEEP, their next film, has James Finlayson, a newly married businessman, being blackmailed by Mae Busch, with whom he was friendly years back. She threatens to come to his house and cause trouble. Finlayson tells his friend, Stan, to go to her house and keep her at bay until he can settle the matter. Oliver plays a guest at a party given by Finlayson.

LOVE 'EM AND WEEP is the earliest Laurel and Hardy film that I know of that is available to collectors. Blackhawk's



In HABEUS CORPUS (1928), a nutty professor needs a body for an experiment; his two unlikely graverobbers have succeeded in scaling the walls of the cemetery.





print quality is quite good, save for some light scratches throughout which I suppose cannot be helped, considering the film's age. In 1931, the film was remade as CHICKENS COME HOME, a sound three-reeler. The plots are identical, again with Mae Busch as the vamp and Stan as the friend. Ollie and Finlayson have changed roles, making Finlayson a butler and Ollie the successful businessman. I personally prefer the later film, perhaps because I am partial to their sound films, but both are equally enjoyable.

In WHY GIRLS LOVE SAILORS (1927), Oliver is a girl-hungry sea captain who is often tamed by his domineering wife. Stan and his girl friend meet up with him, and Oliver falls for her-so much in fact that he abducts her. Stan finally poses as another beautiful girl in order to get her back. Finally Mrs. Hardy arrives on the scene and discovers Oliver's game, giving Stan and his girl time to flee. Not

available to collectors.

WITH LOVE AND HISSES (1927)... Laurel is a private in the army, and soon earns the scorn of Hardy, his bullying sergeant. Good quality prints are available from Blackhawk.

SUGAR DADDIES (1927) is one of the team's best early silent shorts. Finlayson's butler (Hardy) and lawyer (Laurel) help him get out of an unwanted marriage. Some very funny scenes pop up when Stan, on top of Finlayson's shoulders, masquerades as one large woman. The film ends with a funny chase through an amusement park. Blackhawk's print quality is good, although a bit too dark. This isn't always Blackhawk's fault, because I suppose that the pre-print material they receive can sometimes not be the best. SUGAR DADDIES was their first film released by MGM, who handled most of the team's best films. Pathe formerly did this job.

SAILORS BEWARE (1927) casts Stan as a cabdriver, who accidentally goes aboard

a ship when he delivers Anita Garvin and her adorable baby to the dock. Stan is discovered and is put to work at various jobs, all of which he ruins. Finally he becomes the hero of the day when he reveals that the baby is really a crook midget in disguise. Oliver has a very funny part as the ship's elegant purser, who loses his elogance as the film goes on. Too few funny spots and too much plot make SAILORS BEWARE too slow. Not currently available to collectors.

THE SECOND HUNDRED YEARS (1927) is a fast moving, very humorous film with Stan and Ollie as escaped prisoners (shaved heads and all!) who pose as painters to escape, and then masquerade as dignitaries at a fancy party. Hal Roach now realized that the public was interested in Laurel and Hardy, and he started with this film to build films



Finlayson tries to escape his new wife and in-laws by disguising with Stan as Ollie's tall "wife." SUGAR DADDIES (1927)

around them, rather than to put them in as an afterthought. As usual, Blackhawk's print quality is excellent.

In CALL OF THE CUCKOO (1927), Max Davidson's new mansion is not as well built as it appears to be. Everything that can go wrong, break or fall apart does just that, of course at the most embarrassing and inopportune times. Laurel and Hardy along with Charley Chase have small parts as the friendly lunatics next door.

HATS OFF (1927) had Stan and Oliver attempting to move a washing machine up a long flight of steps. The plot was later reworked into their only film ever to win an Academy Award, THE MUSIC BOX (1932). The later film substituted a piano for the washing machine. Even the Three Stooges used the same formula for AN ACHE IN EVERY STAKE (1941). This time, neither a washing machine nor a piano was used, but just an ice-box! Unfortunately HATS OFF is not available to collectors.





Stan is an unwilling patient in LEAVE 'EM LAUGHING; later he and Ollie, having inhaled laughing gas, cause a traffic jam that ties up most of Culver City.



Philip has just taken snuff, and has sneezed off a vital garment; Uncle Piedmont fumes. PUTTING PANTS ON PHILIP.

Their next film, DO DETECTIVES THINK? (1927), was the first to cast them as a team, and was also the film in which their basic costumes were introduced. The plot is simple: A convicted murderer, played by rough Noah Young, escapes from prison to seek out the judge who convicted him, James Finlayson, and get revenge. The judge finds out about the escape and hires Stan and Ollie to protect him. Ha! They do just the opposite by exposing him to the killer, and a wild chase scene concludes the film. Again, Blackhawk's print is good, with only minor flaws. Years later, the plot was loosely worked into GOING BYE BYE (1934). This time, it's Stan and Ollie the Killer is after.

PUTTING PANTS ON PHILIP is a great improvement on their earlier films. The plot is fully explained in the title, with Stanley playing Philip, Ollie's cousin from Scotland. He arrives in kilts, and this is all right until he steps on a street airvent and kilts fly up (Stan has taken snuff and has sneezed down his underwear). Ollie realizes that this attire is not suitable for city living, so he takes Stan to a clothing store for him to be fitted for trousers. This is all new to the foreign Stan, so he doesn't realize what the tailor is trying to do when he tries to get Stan's inseam length. A very funny scene follows, which is the highpoint of the film. PUTTING PANTS ON PHILIP remains as fresh (in more ways than one) as it was in 1927. Blackhawk's print is very good.

BATTLE OF THE CENTURY (1927), the classic pie-throwing film, is not available to collectors. Perhaps someday it will be, and that will give us all something to look forward to.

LEAVE 'EM LAUGHING (1928), was a true Laurel and Hardy film. Stan has a terrible toothache and must go to the dentist to have the tooth removed. Naturally Stan is afraid. What follows is high comedy at the dentist's office. Laughing gas is to be administered to Stan, but through a series of mishaps, everyone in the office gets a generous dose, including Oliver. They leave the office and, being in such high spirits, cause a traffic jam, which i- supervised by none other than Edgar Kennedy the cop! I think that you'll get a dose of laughter too from LEAVE 'EM LAUGHING. Prints by Blackhawk are very good.

"Two Dreadnaughts from the Battleship Oregon" are surrounded by a bevy of beauties; a publicity shot from TWO TARS. nd has le Pied-PHILIP.

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3. Prints



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FLYING ELEPHANTS (1928) is set in prehistoric times, with the boys as cavemen who are searching for wives. The film is a wild farce with gags strung together on a weak plot. I'd like to mention that you'll find the title cards in the silent films as delightful as the films. Credit for this is due to H. M. Walker, who would later write the dialogue for Laurel and Hardy's early talkies.

THE FINISHING TOUCH (1928) is a classic example of Laurel and Hardy's golden ability to stretch one gag throughout the film, and still make it funny. The boys are hired to build a house in one day. They think they can do it. The film illustrates all the wrong ways to build a house, but shows all the right ways to create classic slapstick.

FROM SOUP TO NUTS (1928) is one of the boy's better films. They are hired as butlers for Anita Garvin's ritzy party. The best scene comes when Stan is told to "serve the salad undressed." He follows the order to a T, by serving the salad in his briefest attire. This was one of Stan's ways of showing his character's complete innocence—by taking all sayings literally.

YOU'RE DARN TOOTIN' (1928) is not one of the good films, but they can't all be good. The plot (Stan and Ollie as musicians) is thin, and the only highlight comes at the end, with a pants-ripping routine which does not come off as funny as one would think.

THEIR PURPLE MOMENT (1928), like the film before it, is not funny- just another dreary marital comedy. Run of the mill.

SHOULD MARRIED MEN GO HOME? (1928) was a refreshing improvement, with the boys attempting to spend a quiet day on the golf course. This is impossible, especially after meeting up with Edgar Kennedy. The film comes to a fitting end with a wild mud-throwing battle.

EARLY TO BED (1928) is one of the team's weirdest comedies. It has Ollie causing most of the trouble as a wealthy tippler. Stan is his helpless butler. Even though the characters are switched, EARLY TO BED is very enjoyable, and lets Oliver show some very funny sides of himself.

TWO TARS (1928) is very funny, with Laurel and Hardy as sailors on leave who decide to go for a leisurely drive with two ladies they've picked up. Another Laurel and Hardey "Tit for tat" battle results from a gigantic traffic jam. Blackhawk has added a fitting musical score with sound effects and has released TWO TARS in super 8 and 16mm sound.

RIGHT: "MR. HARDY, MEET MR. LAUREL" - A rather rare straight A rather rare straight publicity shot that offers a glimpse of the boys off-camera from their earlier days as a team. Probably taken around 1928 at the Hal Roach Studios.

FAR RIGHT: Stan and Ollie, after being relieved from duty in the orchestra, have gone to the streets... with Stan sinking (apparently) even lower than

BELOW: The boys have mistaken "Blue Boy" the horse for "Blue Boy" the stolen painting; this is one of the many mishaps they encounter when the "owner" tells them to "put Blue Boy on the piano." From WRONG AGAIN (1929).





HABEAS CORPUS (1928) was Laurel and Hardy's first "spooky" comedy. The plot concerns the boys doing some innocent grave-robbing for a mad professor, played by Richard Carle. Slightly morbid at times, but often very humorous. Blackhawk's print is good, but a trifle too dark in the graveyard sequence.

WE FAW DOWN (1928) is an interesting comedy with Stan and Ollie getting mixed up in lies. The plot was later reworked with greater success into their classic feature, SONS OF THE DESERT.

LIBERTY (1929) is one of the team's most exciting films, with some heartpounding action on the framework of a building. What makes it even more exciting is the fact that the boys were really up there, without the benefit of rearprojection! LIBERTY has also been given the sound treatment by Blackhawk.

In WRONG AGAIN (1929), the painting "Blue Boy" is stolen, and in the stable where Laurel and Hardy work, there is a horse of the same name! The mor boys, only trying to be helpful, return the Ken horse to its "rightful owner," who tells funr them to put Blue Boy on the piano! Ex-tere tremely sharp prints from Blackhawk.

In THAT'S MY WIFE (1929), Mrs. Hardy film walks out on hubbie, just when his rich mus uncle (who has guaranteed Ollie an in- avai heritance provided he's happily married In is about to visit him to meet the little Olli woman. The only thing Ollie can do is try dress Stan up as his wife, using a land dumbbell to fill in where needed the rem most. Uncle falls for it, but alas, they all and go out to a nightclub where one mishap A follows another! Finally, Uncle finds out som the truth and Ollie is taken off the will, Stud left with no wife, and hit with a bowl of wer soup by a drunk. One of their best silent mar films, THAT'S MY WIFE must certainly be Har rated as a classic comedy.

BIG BUSINESS (1929) is generally SCR agreed to be Laurel and Hardy's best silent comedy. Stan and Ollie, Christmas tree salesmen, find a surly customer in Finlayson and engage in yet another "tit

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26 PRIVATE SCREENING

RIGHT: Stan has to pose as Ollie's wife so that Ollie can inherit a fortune; a weighty problem from THAT'S MY WIFE.



for tat" battle.

DOUBLE WHOOPEE (1929) featured Jean Harlow in a bit part before she became famous. Here, she plays a guest at a hotel where Laurel and Hardy work as a coachman and doorman respectively. When she arrives, Laurel innocently closes the cab door on the train of her gown. The cab drives away, leaving her in her underclothing. Strangely enough, she doesn't seem to notice. Ollie does notice, but doesn't dare say anything, lest he embarras this woman! Except for this scene, the film is only fair, but you may want to add it to your collection if only for the Harlow sequence.

In BACON GRABBERS (1929), Laurel and Hardy have the tough job of being process servers, and must serve a summons to an even tougher Edgar Kennedy. Very slow, and limited on funny moments, this film is only interesting for the fact that it was, like the preceding film, one of Jean Harlow's first films. It was originally released with a musical score on disc, which is no longer available.

In ANGORA LOVE (1929), Stan and Ollie are followed home by a goat, and try to conceal it from their suspicious landlord, Edgar Kennedy. This was later remade as LAUGHING GRAVY (1931) and THE CHIMP (1932).

After ANGORA LOVE was shot, something new came to the Roach Studios... sound. The days of silent films were over, and so were the careers of many silent actors. However, Laurel and Hardy survived, and we will cover their sound shorts in the next issue of PRIVATE SCREENINGS.

Stan has received a tip, but Ollie hasn't; the policeman (Tiny Sandford) orders Ollie to "Give the boy back his quarter!" From DOUBLE WHOOPEE.





JUNE 1976 27

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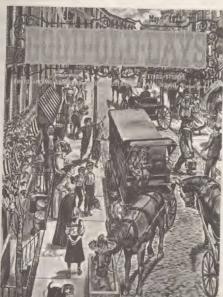
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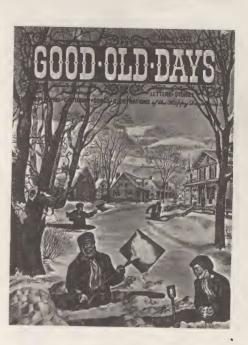
Honestly, reading G.O.D. gives a feeling of peace no drug can match!

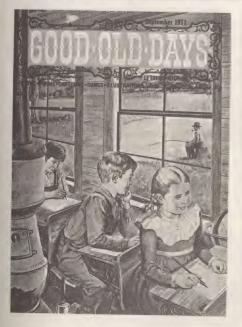
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FOREIGI







Three of the full-length features currently available in Japan. Far left: YAGIU BUGEI-CHO; Left: ODA NOBUNAGA; above: SAI-YU-

JAPAN

by Takashi Sato

In answer to calls from Japanese film buffs, a distributor has begun releasing some 30 features. All the films are in Super 8 Cinemascope. If you wish to see these pictures, it is necessary to attach a Cinemascope lens to your projector. Print condition is the very best, and the sound is superb. I venture to say these films are among the top subjects available on the world wide level. For this reason, these are also collectors' items for American film enthusiasts.

One of the features is the excellent SAI-YU-KI (meaning: travel to westward Budda's utopia), an animated feature. This is especially nice since most of the cartoon material available here is for children only. The original story is a famous Chinese novel, written circa 1570. This fantastic adventure was animated by the Toei studio. I have seen this 8mm Cinemascope film at the preview room, and was astonished at its wonderful quality. Made in 1958, and lasting 89 minutes, it sells in optical sound and color for 145,000 yen (about \$464).

Other features of interest are: 1) SHOWA ZANKYO-DEN, IPPIKI OKAMI (meaning: a loner rascal of Showa era), an action film starring Ken Takakura, leading actor in Japan;

2) YAGIU BUGEI-CHO (meaning: middle-aged military art of 'Ninja'). Ninja is a samurai who mastered the art of making oneself invisible through some artifice and chiefly engaged in espionage activities.

3) ODA NOBUNAGA, name of a samurai hero who conquered 16th century Japan.

4) CHUSHINGURA (meaning: faithful retainers). Japan's most famous vendetta drama. Directed by Teiji Matuda, one of the best cine artists in Japan. A representative Japanese film, highly recommended. This film consists of two parts ("Cherry Blossom's Volume" and "Chrysanthemum Volume").

The name of the distributor is Toei Co., Ltd., Division of Educational Vision (2-8, Kyobashi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104, Japan).

-Takashi Sato is a cinematic critic specializing in 8mm and 16mm feature films. A published author (he goes under the pen name of Junichiro Kida), he is currently organizing a Film Collectors Society of Japan for the purpose of information gathering about world wide 8/16mm news for Japanese film buffs. Readers can write to Takashi at: 1566-220, Nara-Machi, Midori-ku, Yokohama,



SAI-YU-KI, an animated feature based on an early Chinese novel. The story is available in a paperback entitled DEAR MONKEY (Translated by Arthur Waley, abridged by Alison Waley).

GREECE

by Panayotis A. Carayannis

Film collecting was never a widespread hobby here. The reasons are mainly economic. Keeping in mind that film collecting is not a cheap hobby anywhere, here it is even more expensive when we add the lower economic standards of living and the added taxes, since films are considered luxury items. Accordingly, the film buyer is mainly the father who buys the occasional Laurel & Hardy or Chaplin or cartoon reel for his

Obviously, the companies most readily available here are the ones geared to the kiddie and family market: Castle, Columbia, Disney, Ken, Piccolo from Italy and Film Office from France (I must take exception with Film Office though, as they offer a vast variety of material and not "only for kids").

Oh, yes. We did have one producer of 8mm films once, now gone, a victim of the times and television, who advertised his films as the only one with subtitles in Greek. The only thing he didn't tell us was the state of his prints since he was actually a pirate who acquired worn prints thrown out by the distribution companies and made his own 8mm versions. They were either too light, or too dark, or too fuzzy or combinations of these. And I am not talking about the abrupt cuts and missing titles. Just for the record, his lists included about a dozen Columbia two reelers with Hugh Herbert and the Three Stooges, a few cartoons with Tom and Jerry, Casper, and Popeye, and THE CUCKOO MURDER CASE with Flip the Frog. He also offered a number of feature condensations including a mid-fifties version of THE THREE MUSKETEERS and three reels from TAR-ZAN THE APEMAN with Johnny Weismuller. This last one was a typical example, for it is simply the first part of the film. His only films that were not sold exclusively by him were some color

continued on page 32

3 STOOGES in "kook's tour"

— IN SUPER 8 SOUND COLOR —

Conceived by Norman Maurer and the THREE STOOGES in 1969, KOOKS TOUR was originally planned as a television series of half-hour, comedy travelogues, starring the Three Stooges.

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The format was simple. The Stooges, realizing that after a half-century as stars, they had been all over the world yet had never seen the outside of their dressing room, decide to retire from show business. They will no longer be Stooges, just three ordinary guys, out to see the world and enjoy life. They load their camper, tow their boat and take off to finally be normal human beings and soak up the scenery. But, as the title implies, once a Stooge always a Stooge, and no matter how hard they try, their journey's would always prove to be a KOOK'S tour.

The pilot financed by Maurer and the Stooges through their jointly owned company, Normandy Productions, was scheduled to roll in the fall of 1970 on locations in Idaho, Wyoming, Washington and Oregon with closeups and special effects scenes to be filmed in Los Angeles after the location shooting.

Full cooperation was arranged with TWA who was to fly the Stooges, their camper, boat and the crew to every corner of the world. Props were supplied by Honda, General Electric, the Thermos Company and the Chrysler Corporation.

Key closeups and integral portions of many scenes filmed in Idaho, Wyoming, Washington and Oregon were scheduled to be shot after the Stooges and crew returned to Hollywood. It was during the filming of these scenes in Hollywood that Larry suffered a paralyzing stroke.

All plans for a continuing half-hour series had to be permanently cancelled. In the tradition of "the show must go on", every salvagable foot of film was carefully screened, then edited into a single, one hour show. The final result—a great film with breathtaking COLOR!

The film (which was never released until now) stands as a final curtain for the Three Stooges after a long and illustrious show business career. It is the very last time the Stooges appeared together on film . . . or anywhere. It is the first time they ever tried to be themselves on film and the only film, other than the Fox feature, "Snow White and the Three Stooges", that they did in COLOR. It is also the only film they ever financed themselves . . . and, of course, the final act in a long and successful career as international stars.

Exclusive license granted by Normandy Productions to Niles Film Products, Inc. and its authorized dealers. For home use only! Theatrical, television and all commercial rights reserved!

4S381 Super 8 Sound, Color, 60 Min.

\$199.0







continued from page 30

travelogues he made.

Today, with eight hours of TV daily from each of the two channels showing everything, from Bugs Bunny to Hawaii 5-0, the family market has dwindled a little. Amateur film makers, who are many, will still buy a package film now and then to show along with their own.

There is also a small number of hire libraries who have most of the films of the above mentioned companies. The

films are hired by the day.

That is the situation in a few words. In conclusion, the trouble seems to be that film collecting never overcame the "family market" level. Although there must be a few other "serious" collectors, and by "serious" I mean those who buy films because they love them and not those who go into a store and ask: "Do you have anything with Chaplin?" I don't know of any, though.

If there is any news in the future, I will

let you know.

-Panayotis A. Carayannis is a collector with interests in most aspects of film. Any other collectors wishing to contact him may do so at: Vasileos Georgiou A! 30, Neapolis, NEA IONIA, Athens, Greece.

ENGLAND

by Paul van Someren



The big news here, is that the first of the RKO Super 8 releases are just appearing. The distributor, Robert Kingston (Films) Ltd., has completed a deal with RKO General, Inc. for the Super 8 rights to the entire RKO catalogue. Kingston will probably issue the pick of the bunch themselves (TOP HAT, SWING TIME, KING KONG and

ROOM SERVICE have just been announced) with others being offered to other distributors.

Other news: the two LADY AND THE TRAMP clips are out this week ("Muzzle Trouble" and "An Evening Out With...").

British Film Convention

As one of the organizers of the First British Film Collectors' Convention it is rather presumptuous of me to term the event a success, perhaps, but since the attendance was good and most comments afterwards favorable I hope it's the truth

On January 24th, about 150 film collectors made their way to the Holborn Library Theatre in central London. In the morning a large variety of projection equipment was on view, ranging in period from the 28mm Pathe KOK machine of 1912 to the Elmo ST-1200/MO of 1976. A demonstration of 28mm films given by Ted Walker of the Vintage Circle, a program of recent super 8 optical sound film releases and a screening of an abridged William S. Hart movie, THE GUNFIGHTER, on 9.5mm (shown with original "notched titles" on a 1931 Pathe Lux projector) filled the timetable till lunchtime.

In the afternoon we saw the Rin Tin Tin movie, THE LIGHTHOUSE BY THE SEA- a beautiful amber Kodascope 16mm print- which was much appreciated. ThenJohn Burgoyne-Johnson, noted British expert on the history of home movies, showed a program of musicals featuring Big Bands - all 1930's 9.5mm sound prints. Some of the great British bands like Jack Hylton and Ambrose were seen in clips from their features and the Betty Boop cartoon I HEARD (with Don Redman on the track) made a great hit. After the screening of two Blackhawk silents on super 8 (AIR POCKETS with Lige Conley and the charming Starevitch color puppetoon, VOICE OF THE NIGHTINGALE) John was back again to present a real rarity which few present had seen before: films on the ill-fated 17.5mm gauge which enjoyed a brief European popularity in the 1930's. Included was a 1929 Paul Terry cartoon, PRESTO CHANGE and a fascinating record of a trip from Berlin to Rio in the airship Graf Zeppelin.

A "Collectors Forum" session during which collectors present aired their views and questioned the panel of package movie reviewers brought to light many dissatisfactions. Foremost among the grievances voiced by super 8 users were (a) the release of so many "Z" grade movies in this country on super 8, (b) the murky quality of so many prints,

even of recent productions (c) the irritating and unnecessary commentary on many Columbia cutdowns and (d) the lack of interest shown by the distributor in collectors. (Although invitations had been sent to all the companies, only one representative - from newcomer Fletche Films - turned up, although the manager of the 8mm division of Disney's London office sent apologies for non-attendance due to the short notice and expressed great interest in the event.

The final program of the day was a selection of recent super 8 releases. To



our great surprise the Elmo ST-1200 in pecthe projection booth (equipped with pullong throw f1.4 zoom lens) gave an excellent image on an 8 ft. wide screen in writhe large auditorium. The most popular of items appeared to be Walton's clip from Edon ONE MILLION YEARS B.C. (with Spimonsters animated by Ray Harryhausen) and the superb "I Wanna Be Like You" sti sequence from THE JUNGLE BOOK marecently issued here by Disney.

Due to the limited space available we were not able to include trade stands. But for the '77 Convention we plan to make available tables for dealers and also to hold a film auction. We also hope to bully the distributors in making available some pre-release material for projection during the evening show.

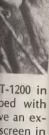
(Paul van Someren currently edits SUPER 8 COLLECTOR, an excellent film ar collectors' magazine for British cinema a buffs. If you'd like a sample copy of the periodical, send \$2 (1 pound) to: Flat ST Two, 145 New Kings Road, London, SW6 was a superiority of the periodical of the sample copy of the periodical of the superiority of the



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EDWARD G. ROBINSON



ALL MY YESTERDAYS (by Edward G. Robinson with Leonard Spigelgass) is a virtual triumph in the field of a film star's "autobiography."

"I have as little patience with the 'as told to' or 'with' school of books as most people. They are usually fan magazine puffery or glossy reminiscences."

Odd as it may seem, the above line was written by Spigelgass, the "with" author of this book. Yet he is not a hypocrite: Edward G. Robinson told the story, while Spigelgass took it down, tightened it up, and corrected the errors. But the book is still Edward G. Robinson. It is a magnificent, enchanting tale of the life of one of Hollywood's greatest stars, written in a style that makes most film books look puny in comparison.

The text of the book contains the usual life history, but there is something about it's construction that makes it different: It is not true in chronological order. It is told as if you were listening to Eddie as he looked through old scrapbooks and letters (This happens to be the way Spigelgass heard it.). The inclusion of anecdotes, feelings, and the like make it a highly emotional and personal book.

The anecdotes themselves provide a small sample of Robinson's philosophical wit and insight:

(On film critics) Will the Pauline Kaels and the Judith Crists and the John Simmons agree with me? A better question these days is, will they agree with each other? And will Andrew Sarris and Vincent Canby agree with any of them?

(On Chaplin) He should never have made a talkie. Once he opened his mouth he ceased to be universal and became an actor. He is no actor; he is a figure. Being a figure is sometimes better than being an actor.

(What is art) I like Picasso's answer:

"What is not?"

All My Yesterdays is the story of a young Rumanian named Emanuel Goldenberg who fell in love with the theatre, began acting, and was eventually "discovered" by the motion picture industry. The retelling of his life is moving, as is the whole book. His no-holdsbarred narration reveals the very personal life he led: His marriage, his child, the rise to fame, his intense love of art, the virtual discredit caused by the blacklisting, the divorce that ruined his



fabulous art collection, and then the last years with a new wife, new films, and new art.

Eddie never got to see this book in print. He died January of 1973. This book is a fantastic, gentle autobiography, a joy to read and re-read. But every silver lining seems to have at least one cloud: The book ends. (Signet, \$1.95) -David Shaw

MICKEY MOUSE CLUB



OF MICE AND MICKEY (By Jeff Rovin) Advertised on the front and back cover as a nostalgic tribute to the series, the book actually is a critical view at the ideas and effects of the show and Disney. Many points are truly interesting and are worthy of some investigation, but the glaring errors in names, dates, and



general Disney history tend to discount any real authenticity of the ideas. The book does contain many nice quotes from Disney, along with an interview with ex-Mouseketeer, Lonnie Burr, and a quiz on the series. Bouncing continuously from praise to criticism, Rovin seems not to have really made up his mind on the subject. Hopefully he will find a single direction and pursue it in his next book, but for now this paperback is recommended to any Disney buff with a built in warning to keep an eye out for errors (Hortense Horsecollar?). (Manor Books, \$1.50)



THE MICKEY MOUSE CLUB SCRAP-BOOK (Compiled by Keith Keller) This is just what it says it is, a scrapbook. It contains pages and pages of pictures, stories and songs from the show. If you remember the program (I don't), the book will no doubt stir many memories. If you are a stranger to the show, there is enough historical information to let you know what you may have missed. One especially nice thing is the reproduction of many memos between Disney and Bill Walsh, showing the many changes that occured before the show was ever produced. A large size paperback (almost 8x11), this book is nicely done. (Grosset & Dunlap, \$3.95) - John Cawley

JUNE 1976 33

PRESTORES' LAST FILM

THE THREE STOOGES' LAST FILM, HNE A MAJOR ENTRY INTOO

e wanted to make something that would outlast us." stated Moe Howard before production began on the team's comedy-travelogue.

The Three Stooges announced the idea of a comedy-travel series in 1958. Thirty-nine shows for television were planned by Normandy Productions. The basic formula of the show was for the Stooges to travel across the United States; and later Europe, Japan, and Australia. Norman Maurer and the Stooges finally started production in the fall of 1969 on a TV pilot, after several changes in the format occured.

"The boys didn't want to travel outside the country," recalled producer-director, Norman Maurer. "Being they were older, they wanted to stay close to home." The Stooges also rejected the idea of slapping or hitting each other because of their age. The film was not intended to be as crazy as their other films. The Stooges, portraying themselves with hair combed back, gave the film more of a relaxed atmosphere.

"Well, it's really a travel show. It starts off where our careers presumably end, and we're retiring," reminisced Larry. "Moe suggests we go see how the rest of the world lives."

In September of 1969, the Stooges traveled towards the midwest and started production of the independently financed pilot. Located in Idaho, sequences were filmed on the Snake River, the Louis and Clark trail, and in Yellowstone Park. They then returned to Los Angeles after three-fourths of the initial shooting was completed. Maurer planned on filming close-ups and other sequences at Sequoia National Park.

During a break in the production, on the night of January 9, 1970, Larry suffered a stroke. The stroke left him paralyzed on the left side and confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life. Larry was later able to walk with the aid of a cane, but paralysis remained. The plan for a series of films was now impossible.

"They hoped I would get well enough 34 PRIVATE SCREENING

so they could complete the film by filming scenes with me from the waist up," concurred Larry.

Maurer was able to stretch out the length to sixty minutes by adding extra scenic footage along with a scene between Moe and Curly Joe in the camper. It was hoped at this length the film would be marketable as a TV special or perhaps a second feature.

Larry premiered the film to potential sponsors at the Motion Picture Country House in 1972. The sponsors and residents enjoyed the film immensely, but no sales resulted.

Later that year, Sears advertised a video cassette of the film. It was part of the Cartrivision Corporation, which was marketing a video-tape television player along with many feature films for home use. Cartrivision assembled a foldout booklet which explained the films offered, and included a color photo of the Stooges taken from a comic book cover along with a synopsis of the film. However the entire deal fell through when the corporation closed down.

In 1973, NBC was considering the film as a holiday special for children on either Thanksgiving, Christmas, or Easter. 1975 saw the film finally being released to audiences through Niles Film Products in Super 8 sound and color.

The Stooge's swan song is enjoyable from beginning to end. A slam-bang collage of clips from HAVE ROCKET WILL TRAVEL to THE OUTLAWS IN COMING start off the film. The Stooges then enter (in color) explaining that they've entertained for over half a century. "And we have the scars to prove it," quips Larry. Suddenly, the Stooges realize that although their work has taken them around the world, they've never seen anything else except the inside of their dressing rooms. Hence they retire from the show business scene and exit on an entertaining and educational journey.

Moe Howard narrates the film with educational insights about the areas visited, along with participating with the Stooges. The film also introduces a new star in the realm of animals: Moose, a labrador retreiver (actually Norman Maurer's dog, and a character in the 'Lit tle Stooges' comic book).

Moe opens the travelogue behind the desk in his home's den. The beginning sequence where the Stooges load up the camper was also shot at Moe's palatia home. From here, the Stooges venture into southern Idaho and relentlessly try landing a Chrysler boat on the river After Moose retrieves the boat (the Stooges having lost it) by towing the 80 pound boat back to shore, they begin down the river.

Even though Larry was a sportsman of screen, in the film the fishing trips are only a disaster for him. Moe tells the boys that what "you don't catch, you don't eat," which becomes a running gag through the film. Even Moose catches a fish, but Larry is helpless in his attempts and always ends up with cold cereal for dinner.

Highlights of the film include Curly Joe's fight against litterbugs in the national forest. He invents a vacuum mini-bike to clean up the forest. An accident occurred when De Rita hit a rope on a pitched tent and fell off. Not wanting to waste the shot, Norman Maurer and son Jeff enter the scene in camping attire as De Rita adlibs a sequence about litter. Another close call occurred when the Stooges were playing with some small foot-pedal paddle boats and Moe's got caught in a current Though actually threatened with being swept down the river, the Stooges were able to rescue Moe and stillmake the scene play for laughs.

Larry, in another minor running gag, wants to get a picture of a deer (for a prize in some contest). In camp, he sets up a contraption that will snap a picture of a deer as it takes the piece of fruit set out for bait. The invention (devised a la Rube Goldberg) was put together by Jeff Maurer, and was an actual working machine. Un- fortunately the device is set in motion by a couple kissing. Larry and the Stooges see the flash bulb explode from their camper. Believing a pic-

KOOK'S TOUR (FIG. 1997) NEVER RELEASED, NOW BECOMES

FILM, H NEVER RELEASED, NOW BECOMES Y INTOHOME MOVIE MARKET

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ture of a deer awaits them, they run to the seen, but make an even hastier exit when the boy chases them off.

In Yellowstone, the Stooges control the geysers (including Old Faithful) with a system of pipes and valves that they have just pulled from their van. Geysers shoot streams of water up and down as secret" of the attraction. Another hasty exit is performed when park rangers sirens are heard approaching. Larry later

mentioned that the park frowned on the sequence since it even suggested that the geysers might be controlled by man instead of nature.

The amazing part of the film, is that the Stooges acted entirely without a script. Maurer wrote and directed the film using a basic outline only.

Norman Maurer is currently working on a rendition of KOOKS TOUR which will be shortened in length and then requences. The intent is aimed as an after school special.

The Stooges and Maurer have created a film which leaves a pleasant and relaxed atmosphere with audiences. Three Stooges' fans will receive an hour of entertaining travels with the team.

KOOK'S TOUR is a memorable view of Moe Howard and Larry Fine in their last production as a team. The film is a fitting end for a comedy tour which lasted for 50 years.

JUNE 1976 35

EL..NEWSREEL..NEWSREEL.E

HOLLYWOOD FILM EXCHANGE (1534 North Highland Avenue, Hollywood, California, 90028) has added more features to their line up of Super 8 films. Both TO BE OR NOT TO BE (1942-Jack Benny and Carol Lombard) and FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT (1940-directed by Alfred Hitchcock) are being offered at a 20% discount until June first. Keaton fans can rejoice, for his lost feature PARLOR, BEDROOM, AND BATH (1932) was found in Europe, and is now being offered by the Exchange. The film is considered to be Keaton's only "great" sound film. Two other newer releases are THE DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS (1963) and finally in Super 8 color and sound, THE JUNGLE BOOK (1941).

MOVIE/EXPO '76 (The Bijou Society, 7800 Conser Place, Shawnee-Mission, Kansas, 66204) should be quite an event. Occuring at the Sheraton-Universal Hotel in Hollywood on May 14, 15, and 16, the convention will have films, dealers, and guests. Guests lined up at present include June Allyson, Jack Oakie, Ruby Keeler, Patsy Kelly, Irene Manning, Patricia Morrison, and Vivian Duncan (one of the Duncan Sisters).

SYNDICATE FILMS, INC. (7411 Hines Place, Suite 117, Dallas, Texas, 75235), a new company on the 16mm market, already has a nice line up which includes their newest attraction: MY FAVORITE BRUNETTE (1947- Bob Hope, Dorothy Lamour, Lon Chaney, and Peter Lorre). Other features on the list are MAN FROM CHEYENNE (1941- Roy Rogers, Gale Storm), EAGLE'S BROOD (1935- William "Hopalong Cassidy" Boyd), SQUADRON OF DOOM (1936- feature version of the Ace Drummond serial), SCARLET STREET (1945- Edward G. Robinson and Joan Bennet, directed by Fritz Lang), ROOTIN' TOOTIN' RHYTHM (1937- Gene Autry), and the serial S.O.S. COAST GUARD. The firm also rents any of their films.

KEN FILMS President, Mr. Lane, recently announced that the firm would stop giving out names of planned releases until the film is ready for distribution. This is being done since many times it takes over a year for the film to finally come out once it is planned. The problem: labs. "It's too expensive for us to make negatives of the entire film, so we just have parts made. Fifty feet here, and seventy feet there is what we usually order. This takes longer, and tends to put us on the bottom of the list at the labs." After the request is made, it may take over six months to get the correct segments (sometimes the wrong segment is sent, or a needed one is not made which will add even more months to get the proper cut). Some of their newer additions from 20th Century Fox are DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL, CURSE OF THE FLY, YOUNG LIONS, DESERT FOX, ONE MILLION YEARS B.C. (Ray Harryhausen), VIVA ZAPATA and the opening speech from PATTON. They also have some new A.I.P.'s available: COFFEE, THE LAND THAT TIME FORGOT, and the recent version of DILLINGER. More Fox films are planned along with versions of THE BIBLE and THE ROBE. Lane would rather release the whole feature, but the studio's won't allow it, "They claim it would cut into their 16mm rentals. I don't really believe that, but at the moment we have to live with it."

DISNEY has no new releases from features planned, but there have been several changes in their other lines. First off, both "DUMBO MAKES THE BIG TOP" and "PERILOUS MISSION" (from TREASURE ISLAND) have been re-issued in

Super 8 silent. These films had previously been pulled from the Fra line-up (in fact a new DUMBO clip had been promised when the Fre old one was withdrawn) several years ago, but both were brough LA back because of recent re-issues of the features (TREASURI LA ISLAND was out last fall, DUMBO will be seen this spring) PETER PAN is also coming out soon, so they are busy promoting their clip from that feature. The only real change in their sound films is the increasing number of clips available in a foreign Bla language (either Spanish or Portuguese). A new version of their Disneyworld/Magic Kingdom film is out (since the park has changed so much since the first one came out) along with a film of the new park at night (both films are in sound and are available in a slide/cassette system for those without sound movie projectors). Collectors may wish to pick up a print of "America On Parade"





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since that film will be withdrawn shortly after the parade finishes it's run at the parks in early September. With the new Mickey Mouse Club going into production, Disney has announced that when the new version is ready the re-runs will be pulled from the air. This means that the only place to see the original will be in the clip now out (they are planning to put out some kind of clip on the new Club after it has established a pattern). Animation buffs can look forward to the possibility of a clip on THE RESCUERS (Disney's newest animated feature, due out in summer of '77) being released shortly before the feature is, as was done with the ROBIN HOOD clip back in '73.

COLUMBIA PICTURES has released another batch of their edited TV shows. These are 20 minute abridgements of the half hour shows animated by Hanna-Barbera. There are 20 new Flintstones, 5 more Jetsons and 5 more Top Cats.

NOSTALGIA FILMS (PO Box 666, Gracie Station, New York, NY 10028) which acquired the entire Vintage Films' line, will be releasing some of those films sometime in March. Currently their list includes many features, serials, cartoons, featurettes, and theatrical trailers in 16mm sound. They are also slowly converting their subjects to Super 8.

MIZZELL FILMS (784 Locust Street, Pasadena, California, 91101) is now making available the MGM musical, TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY (1946). This color feature, recreating the life of composer Jerome Kern, has Judy Garland, Angela Lansbury,

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alifornia, LL THE g the life ansbury, Frank Sinatra, June Allyson, Dinah Shore, Kathryn Grayson, Fred Astaire, and others. Other new items on his list are *THE LAST MILE* (1931), starring Preston Foster, and *COURAGE OF LASSIE* (1946), starring Lassie and Liz Taylor.

THE BAILEY STUDIO (Box 232, Mt. Clemens, Michigan, 48043), dealer in films from such companies as Milestone, Blackhawk, Columbia, Disney, etc., has adopted a new trade in policy. On all films purchased from them, they now offer a 50% trade in allowance within the first year after purchase. After the first year, a 25% credit will be given. They also now allow credit to their customers who qualify.

IVY FILMS (165 West 46th Street, New York, NY 10036), the releaser of the original Captain Marvel serial in Super 8 sound, recently acquired the rights to *FLESH GORDON* and is currently renting it.

NILES (1141 Mishawaka Avenue, South Bend, Indiana, 46615) has announced the upcoming release of SELZNICK, an hour long documentary in the style of their earlier title, BOGART. Lasting sixty minutes, the film contains scenes from many of his films including REBECCA, KING KONG, and ten minutes of GONE WITH THE WIND. They are also looking into the possibility of releasing Super 8 cinemascope. Since several of their features are scope features (they have been releasing "flat" prints), they are considering offering a "squeezed image" version (a scope lens attached to your projector would un"squeeze" the picture, making it cinemascope). The only thing holding them up is the location of a scope lens that will attach to a Super 8 projector. The last release from Niles, KOOK'S TOUR, (The Three Stooges' last film, one hour in color) will eventually be released in a special black and white twenty minute version for those who can't afford the nearly \$200 for the complete film.

MILESTONE MOVIES CORPORATION (212 Shelton Road, Monroe, Connecticut, 06468), long supplying excellent films to collectors of the silent cinema, is now offering *THE NIGHT CLUB* (1925- Raymond Griffith), and *CONDUCTOR 1492* (1924- Johnny Hines). Other selections in their catalog range from Keaton, to Rin Tin Tin, to *THE CAT AND THE CANARY* (1927).

CINEVENT '76 (John Baker, 3456 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43207) will be held May 21, 22, and 23 at the Carrousel Inn in Columbus Ohio. The gathering includes dealers' tables and films. Announced titles are: THE MALTESE FALCON (1931), YOUNG AND INNOCENT (1937- directed by Hitchcock), LONG PANTS (1927- Harry Langdon's third feature), THE SEA HAWK (1924), and CIMARRON (1931).

DAVID HEDISON FAN CLUB (PO Box 560330, Kendall, Miami, Florida, 33156) has quite an enthusiastic membership along with a nice publication. According to Vieve Yarbrough, director of publicity, "We have a varied membership- there are his fans that have been with him since his stage days in New York and a new younger group that have discovered David through his recent guest spots on TV. And he has a large following abroad due to the saturation of VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA in foreign markets, and the teleplays he did in 1971-73 for ITV and the BBC in England. You might say we're a mixed bag." If you wish to join the bag, drop Vieve a note.



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WANTED: Names of any firms that rent 16mm films. Albert Hale, 3825 North Maple Grove, Boise, Idaho, 83704.

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16MM FILM COLLECTORS WANTED: New and used features, shorts, and cartoons. Requests for catalogues should be accompanied by a SSAE and an indication of your collecting interests. Pendulum Films, 3984-26th Street, San Francisco, CA 94131

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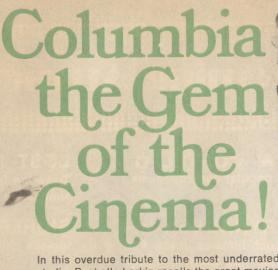
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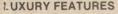
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